

Appln No. 10/814,612
Reply to Office Action of April 21, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action dated April 21, 2005, has been reviewed and the comments carefully considered.

In the Office Action, various issues and questions are raised concerning the description of the variety. By the amendments in the accompanying Substitute Specification, Applicant has made a bona fide effort to address all issues and questions.

In view of the foregoing amendment and response, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and, accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any questions remain regarding the allowability of the application, Applicant would appreciate if the Examiner would advise the undersigned by telephone.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 03-1728. Please show our docket number with any charge or credit to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION
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SENECIO PLANT NAMED 'SUNSENEBABU'

Botanical/~~commercial~~ classification:*Senecio cruentus* x *Senecio heritieri*/~~Senecio Plant~~Varietal denomination: ~~cv.~~ Sunsenebabu

5 BACKGROUND OF THE VARIETY

The present invention relates to a new variety of *Senecio* plant, which originated from the crossing of [[a]]the cultivar 'Extra Blue' (unpatented) as the female parent andwith a variety of *Senecio heritieri* as the male parent.

10 There are many varieties in *Senecio L.* and *Senecio cruentus*, well known as '~~Cineraria~~"Senecio"'~~[[]]~~, and cultivated in the world. There are many cultivated varieties with flowerscapitula of a single color of white, pink red, blue or violet. Some varieties have marginal variegation with off color parts.

Progress

15 The female parent 'Extra Blue' used in the crossing ~~of that produced~~ 'Sunsenebabu' is a cultivar of *Senecio cruentus*. It is early flowering variety having dwarf and mounding shape with large leaves. It has small single flowerscapitula, the petalray florets having a vivid purple color. The seed of 'Extra Blue' is commercially available.

20 The male parent *Senecio heritieri* used in the crossing ~~of that produced~~ 'Sunsenebabu' is a cultivar~~[[]]~~ having a high and dome-shaped growth habit with abundant branching withand small leaves. It has small single flowerscapitula, the petalray florets having strong purple with vague white center coloration. *Senecio heritieri*, ~~was~~ introduced from nurseries in England, has no variety name and to Applicant's knowledge, ~~is notneither~~ patented nor sold in the United States.

25 In January 1996, crossing of 'Extra Blue' as the female parent and *Senecio heritieri* as the male parent was conducted at Hakushu-cho, Kitakoma-gun, Yamanashi-ken, Japan. The seedlings obtained from that crossing were grown in

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pots in glasshouses and evaluated from July 1996. One seedling was selected in view of its growth habit, flower color and flowering time in December 1996. That seedling was propagated by cutting and ~~a trial was grown in pots, carried out~~ A trial was carried out in pots by flower potting from July 1999, at Hakushu-cho, Kitakoma-gun, Yamanashi-ken, Japan. The botanical characteristics of that plant were then examined, using similar varieties 'Sunsenebu' (U.S. Plant Patent Number[[. No.]] 12,104) and 'Miss Yokohama' (unpatented) for comparison. As a result, it was concluded that this Senecio plant is distinguishable from any other variety, whose existence is known to us, and is uniform and stable in its characteristics. ~~Then the~~ new variety of Senecio plant was named 'Sunsenebabu'.

The new variety was first asexually reproduced by cuttings in Hakushu-cho, Kitakoma-gun, Yamanashi, Japan.

In the following description, the color-coding is in accordance with the Horticultural Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England (R.H.S. Colour Chart).

SUMMARY OF THE VARIETY

This new variety is unlike any Senecio commercially available known to the inventor as evidenced by the following unique combinations of characteristics.

1. Semi-dwarf, obconical plant shape having abundant branching with small leaves.
2. The ~~flowers~~capitula are single and small. The ~~petal~~ray floret color is vivid violet (near R.H.S. 94A). The ~~disk~~disc floret color is brilliant violet (near R.H.S. 89D).
3. Blooming time is early, and flowering duration is long.
4. ~~Having~~Low fertility.

The new variety 'Sunsenebabu' differs from the similar variety 'Sunsenebu' in the following points.

1. The plant size of 'Sunsenebabu' is smaller than that of 'Sunsenebu'.

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2. The ~~flowers~~capitulum diameter of 'Sunsenebabu' is smaller than that of 'Sunsenebu'.

3. The ~~disk~~disc floret color of 'Sunsenebabu' is brilliant violet (near R.H.S. 89D), while t~~hat~~ of 'Sunsenebu' is deep violet (near R.H.S. 93A).

5 4. The peduncle length of 'Sunsenebabu' is shorter than that of 'Sunsenebu'.

5. The blooming time of 'Sunsenebabu' is earlier than that of 'Sunsenebu'.

10 The new variety 'Sunsenebabu' differs from the similar variety 'Miss Yokohama' in the following points.

1. The plant height of 'Sunsenebabu' is higher than that of 'Miss Yokohama'.

2. The n~~number~~ of the branches of ~~'Sunsenebabu'~~ 'Sunsenebabu' is more than that of 'Miss Yokohama'.

15 3. The leaf of 'Sunsenebabu' is smaller than that of 'Miss Yokohama'.

4. The ~~disk~~disc floret color of 'Sunsenebabu' is brilliant violet (near R.H.S. 89D) while that~~That~~ of 'Miss Yokohama' is vivid violet (near R.H.S. 96A).

5. The blooming time of 'Sunsenebabu' is earlier than that of 'Miss Yokohama'.

20 6. The flowering duration of 'Sunsenebabu' is longer than that of 'Miss Yokohama'.

25 This new variety of Senecio Plant 'Sunsenebabu' was asexually reproduced by the use of cuttings at Hakushu-cho, Kitakoma-gun, Yamanashi-ken, Japan, and homogeneity and stability thereof were confirmed. The instant plant retains its distinctive characteristics and reproduces true to type in successive generations.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The depicted plants had been reproduced by the use of cuttings and were

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photographed during January 2003 while growing outdoors in 12 cm pots at an age of approximately 5 months at Yokalchi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan.

FIG. 1 illustrates a typical plant of the new variety of Senecio plant 'Sunsenebabu' growing in a pot.

5 FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of typical ~~blosses~~capitula of the new variety of Senecio plant 'Sunsenebabu'.

DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIETY

The botanical characteristics of the new and distinct variety of Senecio plant named 'Sunsenebabu' are as follows when observed during January at Yokalchi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan, at an age of approximately 5 months.

10 Plant:

Growth habit. - Semi-dwarf, obconical.

Height. - Approximately 27 cm.

Width. - Approximately 18 cm.

15 Stem:

Length. - Approximately 16 cm.

Thickness. - Approximately 3.5 mm.

Color. - Near R.H.S. 139C (~~moderate yellow-green~~).

20 Anthocyanin coloration. - Present in parts of the stem, e.g., can be seen at the part of peduncle (near R.H.S. N79B).

~~Branching~~Number of branches. - Abundant.

Type of primary lateral shoot. - Branch from every node.

Pubescence. - Dense.

Length of internode. - Approximately 1.5 cm.

25 Leaf:

Whole shape. - Cordate.

Leaf margin. - Dentate, weakly undulated.

Apex shape. - Obtuse.

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Base shape. - Cordate.

~~Degree of undulation. - Weak.~~

Length. - Approximately 6.8 cm.

Width. - Approximately 7.8 cm.

5 Diameter of petiole. - Approximately 3.4 mm.

Length of petiole. - Approximately 5.5 cm.

~~Color of petiole. - Near R.H.S. 138B.~~Color of upper surface. - Near R.H.S. 146A (~~Moderate olive green~~).Color of ~~reverse~~lower surface. - Near R.H.S. 191B (~~pale yellow green~~).10 Anthocyanin coloration of ~~reverse~~lower surface. - Absent.

Pubescence of upper surface - Moderate.

Pubescence of ~~reverse~~lower surface. - Dense.Pattern of venation. - Reticulate~~Color of venation - Near R.H.S. 138B.~~15 ~~Stipule. - Absent.~~Flower cluster (Gathering of corymbs):~~Type of flower - Single.~~

Shape of flower cluster. - Flat.

Diameter of flower cluster. - Approximately 31 cm.

20 Height of flower cluster. - Approximately 19 cm.

Capitulum:Transected shape of ~~corolla~~capitulum. - Flat.Diameter of ~~flower~~capitulum. - Approximately 4.4 cm.Diameter of ~~disk~~disc floret. - Approximately 1.1 cm.25 Color of ~~petal~~ray floret. - Upper surface - Near R.H.S. 94A (~~vivid violet~~);Lower surface - near R.H.S. 90D.Disc floret:~~Shape. - Tubular, trumpet shape.~~~~Color. - Both surfaces near R.H.S. N88A to N88C.~~

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- Length. - Approximately 8.5 mm.
- Diameter. - Approximately 1.0 mm.
- Margin. - 5 lobed, star shape.
- Apex shape. - Acute.
- 5 Base shape. - Fused.
- Marginal variegation. - Absent.
- ~~Color of disk flower. - R.H.S. 89D (brilliant violet).~~
- PetalRay floret length. - Approximately 1.8 cm.
- PetalRay floret width. - Approximately 0.6 cm.
- 10 Shape of petalray floret. - Oblong.
- Lengthwise warp of petalray floret. - Flat.
- Shape of petalray floret tip. - AcuteObtuse.
- Shape of ray floret base. - Obtuse.
- Margin of ray floret. - Entire.
- 15 Texture. - Velvety.
- Number of ray flowereflorets. - 13 (single whorl).
- Number of disk floweredisc florets. - Approximately 110.
- Diameter of pedicel. - Approximately 1.1 mm.
- Length of pedicel. - Approximately 4.1 cm.
- 20 Number of flowerescapitula per flower-clusterplant. - AbundantApproximately
- 80.
- Scent. - Present.
- Bud:
- Hardiness. - Tolerant to 0°C. However, the plant would be seriously
- 25 damaged by frost, as other Senecio plants, at any temperature.
- Length. - Approximately 5.5 mm.
- Diameter. - Approximately 6.0 mm.
- Shape. - Globose.
- Surface. - Smooth.

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Color. - Near R.H.S. 138A.

Involucre:

Type. - Bracts in a whorl, fused at the base, not recurved.

Length of bracts (separated portion). - Approximately 1.1 mm.

5 Width of bracts (separated portion). - Approximately 1.0 mm.

Number of bracts per capitulum. - Approximately 14Margin of bracts. - Entire

Apex shape of bracts. - Acute.

Color (both surfaces). - Near R.H.S. 144B (strong yellow-green).

10 Anthocyanin coloration (both surfaces). - Absent.

Pistil:

Color. - Near R.H.S. 86B (strong purple).Number. - 1 per ray and disc floret.

Type. - Style branches truncate.

15 Stamen:

Pollen - Moderate, color near R.H.S. 10AColor. - Near R.H.S. 86B (strong purple).Type. - Synanthrous. A disc floret has 5 connate anthers with separated filament. Ray floret has no stamen.20 Blooming time. - Beginning of November (cutting in July) to May. In Japan, plants start flowering about 5 months after planting rooted cuttings.Lastingness of an individual bloom on the plant. - Approximately 2 weeks at around 15°C.

Hardiness:

25 Cold. - Good

Heat. - Good.

Resistance:

Disease. - Good.

Insect. - Good.

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The new variety and *Senecio cruentus* have similar resistance to powdery mildew, leaf spot, aphid, whitefly and thrips. The new variety, 'Sunsenebabu'[[.]] is most suitable for flower potting.

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It is claimed:

**A new variety of Senecio plant named 'Sunsenebabu', substantially as herein
illustrated and described.**

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SENECIO PLANT NAMED 'SUNSENEBABU'

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed herein is a new variety of Senecio plant having a semi-dwarf, obconical shape[[d]] with abundant branching and small leaves. The
5 ~~flower~~capitula are single and small, the ~~petals~~ray florets have having a vivid violet color and the ~~disk~~disc floret color is brilliant violet. The blooming time is early and flowering duration is longer than *Senecio cruentus*. 'Sunsenebabu' has low fertility.